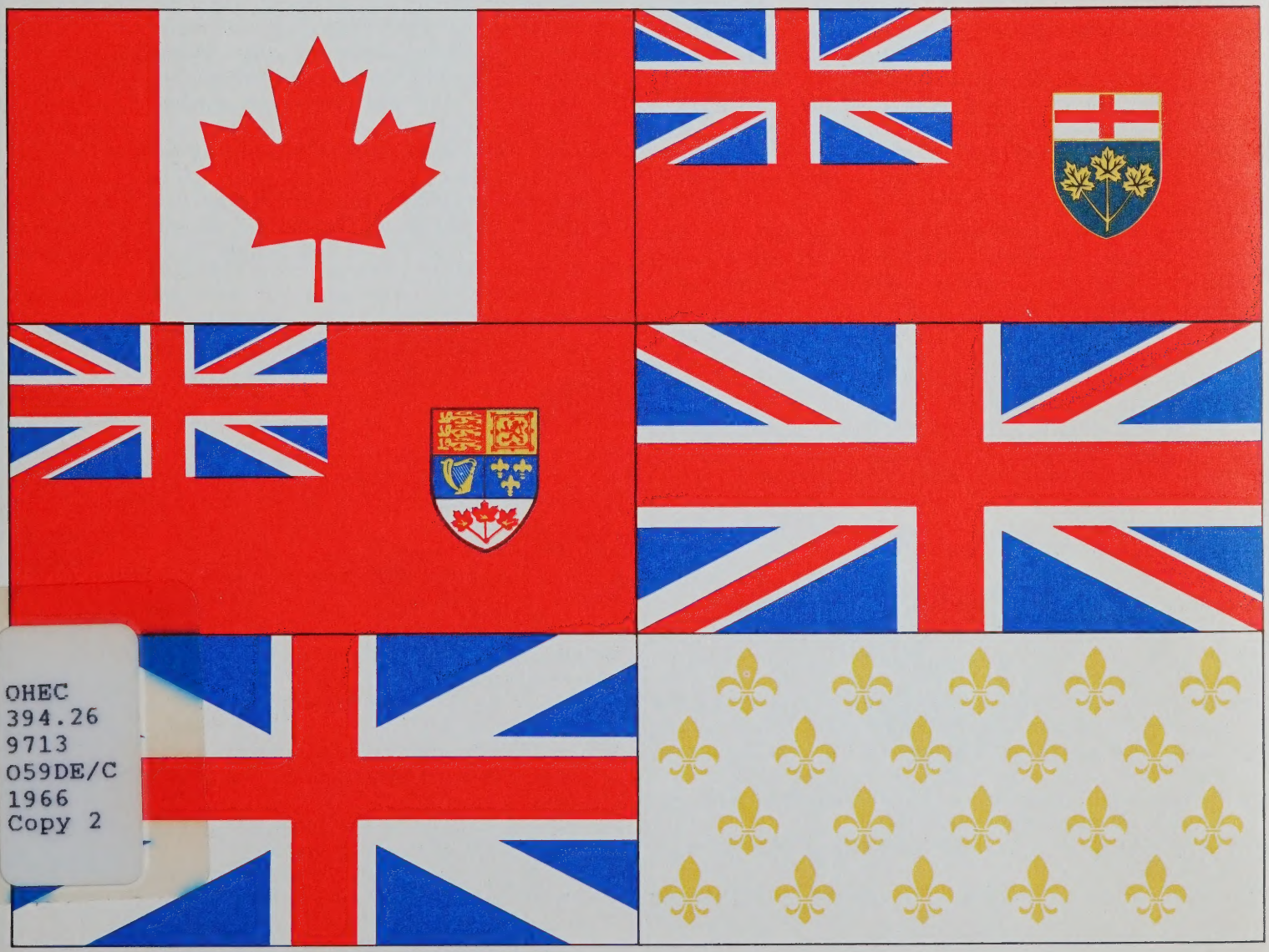
SIX FLAGS OVER ONTARIO

Commonwealth and Citizenship Day May 23rd 1966



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Six Flags over Ontario

Six official and historical flags have flown over the territory we know today as Ontario. The descriptions and accounts of these flags are interesting. Each flag has had its place in the history of Canada and of this province.

The first flag to fly over Canada was the English flag of the 15th century – the St. George's Cross. This flag, a red cross on a white background, was carried by John Cabot, a Venetian sailing under English colours. He landed on the east coast in 1497.

As the frontiers of settlement extended westwards with the explorations of the fur traders, little trading posts proudly flew their nations' flags. The early flags of Britain and France became known in the territory which is now Ontario.

The flag of the Hudson's Bay Company also flew over its forts and trading posts around the Hudson Bay lowlands. Little, however, is known of this early flag. Although numerous references to it appear in the company's archives, "for the most part they are vague and in general terms". According to the Canadian Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company, the earliest specific reference to a company flag appears in 1818 and describes the flag in use today. This is the red ensign with the letters "HBC" in white in the fly of the flag.

Following the Royal Flag of France and the first Union Flag of Britain, other flags have flown over our province. They include the Union Jack, the Red Ensign, the Canadian Flag, and the Provincial Flag.

Short accounts and descriptions of these six flags over Ontario appear in the following pages of this booklet.

PREFACE & TEACHER'S NOTES

The theme of this brochure is based on the history of six flags that have officially flown over the territory which we know today as Ontario. An illustrated brochure such as this is limited in its presentation, but it is believed that the illustrations and notes will provide useful classroom aids for the teaching of topics pertaining to our flags or to citizenship and Commonwealth relations.

The illustrations and flag descriptions are printed in a series of fold-out pages so that they may be more easily used in the classroom by the teacher and for mounting on classroom display boards.

The importance of teaching topics pertaining to citizenship, civics and government as part of the school program cannot be overemphasized. Teachers should, therefore, exercise their ingenuity in organizing and presenting their lessons by using a variety of methods, such as visual aids, class discussions, group work and by reference to carefully selected items of current events. Furthermore, the lessons should be based on the pupils' background and the material under study should be related to real or vicarious experiences of the class to the end that pupils will identify themselves in the role of true citizens and will understand and accept their responsibilities as Canadians.

For further guidance and ideas, teachers might wish to refer to Curriculum I.7 and I.9, Geography, History and Government, Social Studies, Intermediate Division, 1962, pages 123-125.

Suggestions to Teachers

Observance of Commonwealth and Citizenship Day may take on many forms in the school curriculum. Some schools may wish to develop suitable topics by lessons, discussions and current events talks by pupils, or to show a film or filmstrip, etc., during the days preceding Commonwealth and Citizenship Day, finishing with a program in the auditorium or in the classroom.

The program might be patterned on the following format:

1. A song suitable for the occasion
2. A short speech by a pupil, a teacher or the principal. The content of the speech might be based on the significance of the Commonwealth of Nations or on Citizenship. Some parts of this booklet might be read at this time.
3. Special Feature
4. O Canada – God Save The Queen

Suggestions for the "Special Feature" Section of the Program

This part of the program could be presented in any one of the following forms:

(a) A selected film or filmstrip
(b) A short play suitable for the occasion – the play might be written by the pupils and based on a Commonwealth or Citizenship theme.
(c) Reading of selected extracts or poems or the singing of selected songs
(d) Children might dress in various national costumes and give short accounts of the countries they represent.
(e) Pupils might give a short account of the flags as described in this publication.
(f) Pupils or teachers might show a few selected coloured slides of any of the Commonwealth countries they have visited, adding their own commentary.
(g) A visitor might be invited to give an address – preferably an illustrated talk on a visit to a Commonwealth country.

Suggested Films and Filmstrips

Films

S.S. 294 *Skipper Learns a Lesson* (Primary Grades) 10 mins.
S.S. 486 *Moving Day – Timmy's New Neighbours* (Primary Grades) 10 mins.
S.S. 599 *History of Our Flag and Coats-of-Arms* (Junior and Intermediate Division) 15 mins.
S.S. 563 *Pioneer Village* (Junior and Intermediate Divisions) 30 mins.
S.S. 436 *Sceptre and the Mace* (Intermediate and Senior Divisions) 30 mins.
S.S. 544 *Georges Vanier* (Intermediate and Senior Divisions) 30 mins.
S.S. 364 *Family Tree* (Intermediate Division) 11 mins.
S.S. 554 *Lord Elgin* (Intermediate and Senior Divisions) 30 mins.
S.S. 555 *Lord Durham* (Intermediate and Senior Divisions) 30 mins.
S.S. 601 *John A. Macdonald* (Intermediate and Senior Divisions) 29 mins.
S.S. 556 *William Lyon Mackenzie* (Intermediate and Senior Divisions) 30 mins.

The above-named films are available from the Audio-Visual Education Branch, Department of Education, 559 Jarvis Street, Toronto 5. The numbers and titles of these films are taken from the Visual Education catalogue, 1965, of the Department of Education.

The following National Film Board programs suitable for senior high school classes may be borrowed from local film libraries:

(a) *Vote for Michalski*
(b) *A Day in the Night of Jonathan Mole*
(c) *Citizen Varek*
(d) *The Threshold*

Filmstrips

(a) *Constitutional Development*
(b) *Cabinet Government*
(c) *Federal Government*
(d) *Municipal Government*
(e) *Provincial Government*
(f) *Parties and Elections*
(g) *You and Your Government*

The above-mentioned filmstrips are produced by the National Film Board of Canada.

Suitable Displays for the Classroom (for various grade levels)

1. A mural prepared by the pupils
2. A display of dolls from Commonwealth countries.
3. A stamp collection
4. A wall map showing the various Commonwealth countries linked by tapes to representative pictures of the peoples of these countries.
5. A display table with labelled exhibits or samples of goods from representative Commonwealth countries.
6. A display of miniature flags from Commonwealth countries.
7. A mural using the materials of this booklet.

CITIZENSHIP

Rights and Responsibilities

Rights and Freedoms

All Canadians as lawful citizens are free to enjoy a number of privileges. These privileges may be called the *freedoms* of citizenship. There are also a number of conditions for which the government is responsible, namely, the *rights* of the people. Most people who live in true democracies enjoy these rights and freedoms.

Such privileges have been handed down from father to son. They have grown and been refined over the years. Our common laws are based on general agreement regarding these rights and freedoms.

Here are some of the privileges of citizenship as they appear in the Canadian Bill of Rights, 1960.

(a) the right of a person to his existence, to the use of his property, and to freedom and safety from danger
(b) the right of all persons to be thought equal before the law
(c) freedom of religion
(d) freedom of speech
(e) freedom to join private groups and public bodies
(f) freedom to print what seems just and true

The Bill of Rights states that these rights and freedoms are in existence for the use of all citizens and that they are not dependent on a person's sex, colour, religion or mother country.

Other freedoms, which need a little further explanation, include:

1 Freedom Before the Courts

One of the important rights of man in a democracy is the way the laws of the country are put into force. In Canada no one may be kept in prison without good cause. Anyone who is stopped by the police force or put into prison against his will has the right to be told why. He has the right to get the help of a lawyer without delay. If the question comes before the court, he has the right to an open and regular hearing. Furthermore, any person taken to court who has no knowledge of the language used in that court has the right to the services of an interpreter to make clear to him what is being said.

2 Freedom of Change

Every person in Canada has the right to go freely about the country. He may take work or own property in any part of Canada.

3 Taking the Rights of Others into Account

Each citizen, on his part, must make use of his rights without offending or doing damage to the rights of others. No freedom is complete. Freedom of speech, for example, must be kept within reasonable limits. It does not give the right to make false statements about a person, to damage his good name, or do anything which the laws forbid.

4 Responsibilities

A true and loyal citizen also has responsibilities. These responsibilities are not all forced upon him by law. They include:

(a) respecting the laws
(b) voting in all elections – municipal, provincial, and national
(c) taking part in public events and contributing to organizations for the good of the community
(d) doing a good and honest job
(e) helping to conserve the resources and preserve the beauty of our land
(f) respecting customs and traditions which are part of a country's heritage
(g) establishing a sense of responsibility

It is on such freedoms and responsibilities that citizenship thrives and flourishes. It is also through a citizenry that recognizes these freedoms and responsibilities that a nation grows strong and commands respect.

Some Thoughts on Citizenship: On Being Canadian
by The Right Honourable Vincent Massey, C.H.

What sort of person do we wish our young Canadian to be? What will he be like if he embodies the best in the Canada around him? He will have some reverence for the past, a respect for what has gone before. He will have kept some of the simple virtues of an earlier time which will help him to sort out the real from the counterfeit. He will think for himself, with respect for the views of others. He will work hard and play hard and know how to use his increasing leisure. He will have resources within him to keep him independent of the mechanized pleasure of the age. He will be able to laugh at the absurd and will become angry at the sight of injustice. He will not be ashamed of good manners. He will show an inherited instinct for freedom. He will nurse a personal devotion to the welfare and the safety of his country. He will have a deep and quiet belief in what she is and what she can do.

Credo for Young Canadians

What might be the credo to express his beliefs? He should be able to say:

I believe in Canada, with pride in her past, belief in her present and faith in her future.

I believe in the quality of Canadian life, and in the character of Canadian institutions.

I believe in the Commonwealth of Nations within whose bounds we have found freedom, and outside which our national life would lose its independent being.

I believe in our abiding friendship with our nearest neighbours; an honest friendship without either the subservience or the mimicry which must impair true partnership.

I believe that Canada is one, and that if our minds dwell on those things which its parts have in common, we can find the unity of the whole.

I believe that with sound work, the spirit of a team, and an awareness of ourselves, we can look forward to achievements beyond our imagining.

"It is men who make a city, not walls, or ships without crews."

Pindar (circa 480 B.C.)

"If the citizens are of sound character, I consider the town splendidly fortified."

Aristotle (circa 330 B.C.)

"What constitutes a State?
Not high-crowned battlement or labour'd mound,
Thick wall or moated gate . . .
No: – men, high-minded men –
Men who their duties know . . .
These constitute the State."

Coriolanus (Shakespeare)

"For this is the bond of men in cities, that all shall rightly preserve the laws."

Euripides (circa 428 B.C.)

"Canadians, in the not remote distance, will be one great nationality bound, like the Shield of Achilles, by the blue rim of the ocean."

Thomas D'Arcy McGee

"The bonds which unite us, though supple as elastic, are stronger than the tensest steel."

Winston Churchill

"Families are the bricks from which all human societies are built. If the bricks are sound the edifice will endure."

Her Majesty, the Queen

Acknowledgements

Mr. John Cozens, Director, Operations Branch and Protocol Officer, Ontario Department of the Provincial Secretary and Citizenship, for his kind help and advice.

J. M. Dent and Sons (Canada) Ltd., for permission to reprint the extract *On Being Canadian* by the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, C.H.

Mr. Hume Wilkins, Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum Division, Ontario Department of Education, for permission to reprint the poem *Our Flag.*

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Ontario Department of Education

Minister's Message

Citizenship was once described by Sir John A. Macdonald, the famous Canadian statesman and a Father of Confederation, as "the great heritage bequeathed to us by our fathers".

Young Canadians are proud to be citizens of this vast and developing country. They respect and honour this great heritage, but they also look forward to the many challenges that the future holds–physical and mental challenges that are so much a part of the future promise and growth of Canada.

Besides being vitally interested in our national events and affairs, young Canadians are increasingly aware of, and involved in, movements and happenings in other countries. In fact, youth the world over is becoming concerned about what is happening to young folk in other lands. This interest is to be encouraged because the future of the world is in the hands of its youth. Young people must learn to understand, to help, and to trust one another, so that their respective countries may live in peace and harmony.

It is also on such ideals that the Commonwealth of Nations is founded. It has been described as "an experiment in human relations", based on the cooperation and the understanding of man. It is a partnership of many independent nations, of people of many different races, religions and homelands, all striving to work together for peace and prosperity and for the furtherance of trust and goodwill among men.

Good citizenship and good Commonwealth relations mean rewards and benefits for one's country and for the world at large, but they also involve duties, responsibilities, and loyalties, which are only appreciated through experience and understanding.

I trust, therefore, that every school in the Province will devote some time during this observance of Commonwealth and Citizenship Day to a study of topics associated with these themes. From such studies our young people will learn to appreciate the values of association and cooperation with people of other countries in order to feel secure, to share knowledge, to fight poverty and disease, and to uphold the dignity of man.

May 1966

William G. Davis

WILLIAM G. DAVIS
Minister of Education

ROYAL FLAG OF FRANCE

(16th Century)

Jacques Cartier, the famous explorer was the first to set the royal flag of France on Canadian shores. Sailing from the little port of St. Malo, France, in April 1534, he steered westward in search of new wealth for his King, Francis I, and for the much fabled passage to the coveted ports of the Orient. After a voyage of 21 days he sighted Newfoundland and sailed on to explore the Gulf of St. Lawrence extensively. At Gaspé on July 24th of that year, he planted a 30-foot cross marked with the Fleur-de-Lis and the words "Vive le Roi de France". During his 1535-6 voyage, he sailed up the St. Lawrence as far as Hochelaga, now called Montreal, and introduced the royal flag.

With the westward movement of the French, the Fleur-de-Lis flew over their forts and settlements. There is no doubt that the French flag flew when Count Frontenac conferred with the Iroquois chiefs on July 13, 1673 before starting a fort and trading post at Cataraqui, on the present site of Kingston. The Fleur-de-Lis must have flown over Huronia, and wherever French forts existed in the region which was later to become known as Upper Canada and eventually Ontario.

The French flag flown at that time was the flag of the King and bore the royal emblem, the heraldic lily or *fleur-de-lis*. The flag was made of white silk, and "powdered" as the Heralds call it, with gold lilies, some of them in halves on its edge, so that it looked like a piece cut from a larger sheet of tapestry.

A study of the coat of arms of Quebec will show three golden fleur-de-lis on a background of blue. In heraldic terms this part of the shield is described as "Azure three Fleur-de-lis Or" which means "On blue, three gold fleur-de-lis".

FIRST UNION FLAG 1606

The First Union Flag came into being in England in the year 1606. Composed of two crosses – the St. George's Cross for England, and the St. Andrew's Cross for Scotland – the Union Flag was meant to symbolize the unity of the two countries.

The St. George's Banner was a red cross on a white field, and the St. Andrew's Banner was a diagonal white cross on a blue field.

Neither the English nor the Scots welcomed the new flag. Each complained that its part of the flag was blurred or obliterated by that of the other. Their protests, however, were of no avail, and a new union flag was born which was to fly in many new and strange lands. The flag was meant chiefly for use at sea and was to be flown on the mainmasts. It was such a flag that the British explorers, and later the settlers, brought to Canada during those early years of our country's history. Henry Hudson's ship, the *Discovery*, in the year 1610, fluttered the Union Flag at its masthead during its ill-fated voyage into the sea area we now know as Hudson Bay. The Union Flag also flew from Captain Cook's ships, the *Resolution* and the *Discovery*, when he explored Nootka Sound, near Vancouver Island, in 1778. Under such a flag the United Empire Loyalists tracked their way through a wilderness of trees and rocks to establish a new life in Canada. It was also the Union Flag that Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe saluted when he arrived to open the first parliament of Upper Canada at Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake) on the morning of September 17, 1792.

There is no doubt that the First Union Flag was a common sight in Upper Canada during these early years of pioneering and the later period of settlement.

ROYAL UNION FLAG

or Union Jack

The Union Jack was proclaimed the official flag of Great Britain in 1801. It was to fly over "His Majesty's forts and castles" and on ships. During the years that followed, the Union Jack was more widely displayed, and it was said that the "sun never sets on the Union Jack".

The word "jack" is not without interest. It is derived from "jacque" or surcoat which knights and warriors such as the Crusaders wore for protection. The surcoat or jacket had pieces of armour sewn into its padded leather, and on the breast and back of each English jacket was the crimson cross of St. George, the patron saint of England.

When the soldiers boarded a ship they stacked their jackets along the bulwarks, and thus protected themselves from the arrows of enemies. No flags were flown on ships in those early days, but the jackets, with their brightly painted crosses, proclaimed the nationality of the vessels. It is believed that in the course of time one of these jacques or jackets was hitched to the bowsprit and was christened the "Jack". With the passage of time the "Jack" with the three crosses became the flag we know today.

The three crosses on the "Jack" represent the banners of the patron saints of England, Scotland and Ireland, and signify the union of these three countries. Hence the name, Union Jack.

England's flag is the St. George's Banner, a red cross on a white field; St. Andrew's Banner – a diagonal white cross on a blue background – represents Scotland; and St. Patrick's Banner, representing Ireland, is a diagnoal red cross on a white field. The placing of these three banners one over the other and "counterchanging" (that is, alternately giving prominence in the four quarters of the flag) establishes the familiar red, white and blue pattern.

CANADIAN RED ENSIGN

The story of the Red Ensign is the tale of an adopted flag that became accepted. It is also the story of a ship's flag that found its way across a continent. The Ensign's history goes back to the year 1892 when "the Commissioners for executing the office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, etc." issued the following document:

"Whereas we deem it expedient that Canadian registered vessels shall be permitted to wear the Red Ensign of Her Majesty's Fleet with the Canadian Coat-of-Arms on the Flag thereof,

"We do therefore by virtue of the power and authority vested in us hereby warrant and authorise the Red Ensign of Her Majesty's Fleet with the Canadian Coat-of-Arms in the Flag, to be used on board vessels registered in the Dominion.

"Given under our hand and the Seal of Office of Admiralty this second day of February, 1892."

And so the Red Ensign, as we know it, became the official Canadian Ensign, and almost the national flag. The early days of the Canadian Red Ensign were not without incident, because some members of the Admiralty at that time complained about the "defacement of the Red Ensign". Furthermore, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries stated, in a report dated February 11, 1892, "that the adoption of the Canadian Shield in the Red Ensign has already become so general that to order its abolition would excite opposition, and involve on smaller vessels a measurable item of expense."

As the years passed, the Red Ensign became accepted on land and on sea as Canada's own flag. Accordingly, the Government on September 5, 1945, by Order in Council P.C. 5888, signed by the Governor-General, ordered that "The Red Ensign with the Shield of the Coat-of-Arms of Canada in the Flag (hereinafter referred to as 'The Canadian Red Ensign') may be flown from buildings owned or occupied by the Federal Government within or without Canada . . . and that it shall be appropriate to fly the Canadian Red Ensign within or without Canada wherever place or occasion may make it desirable to fly a distinctive Canadian Flag."

The Red Ensign has been described as follows:

"The Flag consists of a Red Field, with the Union Jack in the First Quarter next to the Staff. The inclusion of the Union Jack signifies Canada's association with the other members of the British Commonwealth of Nations. The Coat-of-Arms bears the emblems of the four countries from which the original settlers of Canada were chiefly drawn – the Three Lions of England, the Lilies of France, the Lion Rampant of Scotland, and the Harp of Ireland, together with a branch carrying three Maple Leaves, the special emblem of Canada."

(Department of Immigration publication)

On February 15, 1965 by the approval of Parliament and by Royal Proclamation, a new and distinctive National Flag was officially presented to the people of Canada.

PROVINCIAL FLAG OF ONTARIO

The Provincial Flag of Ontario, having been approved by Legislature, was introduced to the people at a "Ceremony for the Raising of the Flag of Ontario" at Queen's Park, Toronto on Friday, May 21, 1965.

At that ceremony the Prime Minister of Ontario, The Honourable John P. Robarts, Q.C., spoke these words:

"To all the symbols and the traditions, the usages and the customs, which bind and cement us together as an indivisible people, we pay due homage and respect, as men and women of honourable intent, and as we salute the past we also look forward with enthusiasm to the future.

"Flying on the new flagpole on the right, this morning, you will observe the flag of Canada. That is the position of pre-eminence in these grounds, and it is meet and proper that this place should be so occupied by the national flag of Canada which has been passed by the House of Commons and the Senate of Canada and has received Royal assent.

"On the flagpole on the left will fly the Provincial Flag of Ontario, adopted for this province under the provisions of The Flag Act, 1965, enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"It incorporates parts of the Royal Armorial Ensigns, namely the Union, laid down by Order-in-Council of the fifth day of November, 1800, and the Red Ensign, laid down by Royal Proclamation of the first day of January, 1801. The badge in the fly of the flag is the shield of the Armorial Bearings of the Province of Ontario granted by Royal Warrant on the 26th day of May, 1868.

"I am happy at this time to announce that a design of this flag, prepared by the Garter King of Arms, and certified by him to be in accordance with heraldic laws and practice has been graciously approved by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II."

The Provincial Flag bears a Union Jack and the Shield of the Armorial Bearings of the Province of Ontario. The Union Jack, by regulation of the Flag Act, 1965, is half the width and half the depth of the Flag. The Shield, which is located in the "fly of the flag", is "in width one-sixth the width of the flag and in depth, eight-eighteenths of the depth of the flag." In the language of heraldry the shield is described as "Vert a Sprig of three leaves of Maple slipped Or, on a chief Argent the Cross of St. George." In simpler form this means that the shield consists of three golden (yellow) maple leaves on a green background and surmounted by the banner of St. George – a red cross on a silver (white) background.

During the closing of his speech at the flag-raising ceremony, the Prime Minister of Ontario said:

"We are, therefore, empowered on this occasion to raise the Provincial Flag of Ontario. In thus identifying ourselves with, and adopting this flag, we do so as Canadians, in Ontario, whose purpose it will be to help to lead this nation to greater heights. The prayer in our hearts today is that the years to come will be fruitful ones for Canada and for every citizen within its far-flung boundaries."

NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA

The National Flag of Canada, having been approved by Parliament, was proclaimed by Her Majesty the Queen on February 15, 1965.

It is described as a red flag with a length which is twice its width, containing in its centre a white square the width of the flag, bearing a single red maple leaf, or, in heraldic terms, "described as gules on a Canadian pale argent a maple leaf of the first".

Red and white are the colours of Canada. They were officially declared and appointed by the late King George V on November 21, 1921, in a proclamation of Canada's Coat-of-Arms recommended to His Majesty by the Canadian Government.

The maple leaf appears to have been regarded as a Canadian emblem for centuries. Records suggest it was used as a Canadian symbol as early as 1700, if not before. The maple leaf was used for decorative purposes when the Prince of Wales made an official visit to Canada in 1860; it appeared in the Coats of Arms granted to Ontario and Quebec in 1868 and, as a distinctive Canadian symbol, in the Coat-of-Arms of Canada which was officially granted in 1921. For many years too the maple leaf has been used as a symbol and mark of identity by members of the Canadian Armed Forces, by sports teams representing Canada, by various Canadian organizations, and by Canadian tourists abroad.

The leaf on the flag is conventional in form or stylized, as is the custom when things found in nature are depicted on flags, banners or crests. It has eleven 'tips' or "points", but the number eleven has no intentional significance.

At the inauguration ceremony of the Canadian Flag at Ottawa on February 15, 1965, His Excellency The Right Honourable Georges P. Vanier, D.S.O., M.C., C.D., Governor General of Canada, spoke these words:

"I hope and pray . . . that our Flag will symbolize to each of us and to the world the unity of purpose and high resolve to which destiny beckons us."

OUR FLAG

(February 15, 1965)

"The leaves of the tree were for
the healing of the nations."
Revelation 22:2

A new Leaf burgeons high
On the Canadian sky;
A banner red and strange
Waves in the winds of change.

God use our Maple Leaf
To heal the Nation's grief;
A cordial flame unfurled
To cheer a forlorn world!

Hume Wilkins